

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 891

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Appalachian Ballet Company upon the occasion of its fortieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those exemplary organizations and their remarkable members who, through their unwavering commitment to excellence, are a credit to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such notable organization is the Appalachian Ballet Company, whose members are committed to the education and preservation of world culture through dance and music; and

WHEREAS, the Appalachian Ballet Company was founded by Cheryl Van Metre in 1972 and was initially chartered as the Maryville-Alcoa Civic Ballet Company; the name was later changed to the Appalachian Ballet Company to reflect its becoming a regional company; and

WHEREAS, collaborating with area artists and creating ballets to newly composed music, Ms. Van Metre set a standard of excellence with her demand for high quality training and perfection in the company's classical ballet performances; and

WHEREAS, upon Cheryl Van Metre's retirement in 1996, Amy Moore Morton was appointed Artistic Director and has continued the commitment to use live music as often as possible; and

WHEREAS, the company is also largely maintained by its loyal and dedicated supporters, including Jan Valenti, Production Director, and Kathy Dorner, Business Manager; and

WHEREAS, while its repertoire has expanded over the years to include more contemporary dance, the Appalachian Ballet continues to perform the classics; and

WHEREAS, the Appalachian Ballet Company is a member of the Southeastern Regional Ballet Association; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, the company has been honored by the Tennessee Arts Commission, receiving grants for its performances of The Nutcracker and enabling it to partner with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra; and

WHEREAS, as the Appalachian Ballet Company celebrates its rich history of forty years, it is appropriate to honor the many dancers and staff members, both past and present, who have volunteered their time, talents, and resources in order to culturally enhance these communities and share their passion through the arts of dance and music; and

WHEREAS, the Appalachian Ballet Company is most assuredly worthy of this General Assembly's recognition and approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the performers and employees of the Appalachian Ballet Company for their tireless dedication to making the State of Tennessee a more diverse place, congratulate them on the celebration of the company's fortieth anniversary, and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.